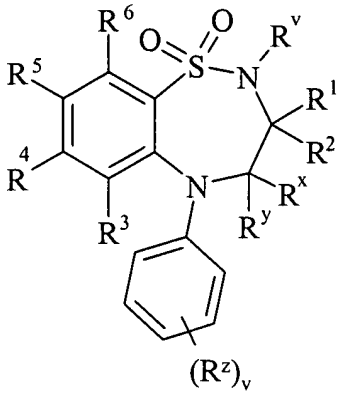
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula **(I)**:



(I)

wherein:

$\mathbf{R^v}$ is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

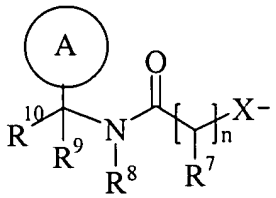
One of $\mathbf{R^1}$ and $\mathbf{R^2}$ are selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl and the other is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^x}$ and $\mathbf{R^y}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, mercapto, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2;

$\mathbf{R^z}$ is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl;

v is 0-5;

one of $\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^5}$ is a group of formula **(IA)**:



(IA)

$\mathbf{R^3}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ and the other of $\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^5}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl; wherein R^3 and R^6 and the other of R^4 and R^5 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{17};

X is -O-, -N(R^a)-, -S(O)$_b$- or -CH(R^a)-; wherein R^a is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl and b is 0-2;

Ring A is aryl or heteroaryl; wherein Ring A is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{18};

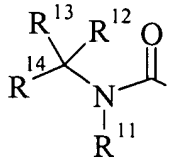
$\mathbf{R^7}$ is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein R^7 is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{19}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{20};

$\mathbf{R^8}$ is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^9}$ is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{10}}$ is hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, *N,N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_3$ammonio, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclyl,

heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_p$-R^{21}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_q$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_r$-R^{22}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_s$-; wherein R^{10} is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{23}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{24}; or R^{10} is a group of formula **(IB)**:



(IB)

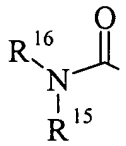
wherein:

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{12} and **R^{13}** are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein R^{12} and R^{13} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{25}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{26};

R^{14} is selected from hydrogen, halo, carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_p$-R^{27}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_q$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_r$-R^{28}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_s$-; wherein R^{14} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from

R^{29}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{30}; or R^{14} is a group of formula **(IC)**:



(IC)

$\mathbf{R^{15}}$ is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; and $\mathbf{R^{16}}$ is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; wherein R^{16} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^{31};

or $\mathbf{R^{15}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{16}}$ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocyclyl; wherein said heterocyclyl may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{37}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{38};

n is 1-3; wherein the values of R^7 may be the same or different;

$\mathbf{R^{17}}$, $\mathbf{R^{18}}$, $\mathbf{R^{19}}$, $\mathbf{R^{23}}$, $\mathbf{R^{25}}$, $\mathbf{R^{29}}$, $\mathbf{R^{31}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{37}}$ are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, *N,N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_3$ammonio, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_p$-R^{32}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_q$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_r$-R^{33}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_s$-; wherein R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{23}, R^{25}, R^{29}, R^{31} and R^{37} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{34}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{35};

R^{21}, **R^{22}**, **R^{27}**, **R^{28}**, **R^{32}** or **R^{33}** are independently selected from -O-, -NR^{36}-, -$S(O)_x$-, -$NR^{36}C(O)NR^{36}$-, -$NR^{36}C(S)NR^{36}$-, -OC(O)N=C-, -$NR^{36}C(O)$- or -$C(O)NR^{36}$-; wherein R^{36} is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl, and x is 0-2;

p, **q**, **r** and **s** are independently selected from 0-2;

R^{34} is selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, carbamoyl, ureido, amino, nitro, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, vinyl, allyl, ethynyl, formyl, acetyl, formamido, acetylamino, acetoxy, methylamino, dimethylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, methylsulphinyl, mesyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N*-methylsulphamoylamino and *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoylamino;

R^{20}, **R^{24}**, **R^{26}**, **R^{30}**, **R^{35}** and **R^{38}** are independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl; and

wherein a "heteroaryl" is a totally unsaturated, mono or bicyclic ring containing 3-12 atoms of which at least one atom is chosen from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen, which heteroaryl may, unless otherwise specified, be carbon or nitrogen linked;

wherein a "heterocyclyl" is a saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated, mono or bicyclic ring containing 3-12 atoms of which at least one atom is chosen from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen, which heterocyclyl may, unless otherwise specified, be carbon or nitrogen linked, wherein a -CH2- group can optionally be replaced by a -C(O)- group, and a ring sulphur atom may be optionally oxidised to form an S-oxide; and

wherein a "carbocyclyl" is a saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated, mono or bicyclic carbon ring that contains 3-12 atoms; wherein a -CH2- group can optionally be replaced by a -C(O) group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 2 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula **(I)** as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^v is hydrogen or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or

amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 3 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula **(I)** as claimed in claim 1 ~~either of claims 1 or 2~~ wherein R^1 and R^2 are both butyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 4 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula **(I)** as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ wherein R^x and R^y are both hydrogen or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 5 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula **(I)** as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ wherein v is 0 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 6 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula **(I)** as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ wherein R^3 and R^6 are both hydrogen or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 7 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula **(I)** as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ wherein R^4 is methylthio or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 8 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula **(I)** as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ wherein R^5 is a group of formula **(IA)** (as depicted in claim 1) wherein:

X is -O-;

Ring A is aryl; wherein Ring A is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{18};

R^7 is hydrogen;

R^8 is hydrogen;

R^9 is hydrogen;

R^{10} is a group of formula **(IB)** (as depicted in claim 1 ~~above~~):

R^{11} is hydrogen;

R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from hydrogen or C_{1-10}alkyl;

R^{14} is selected from C_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R^{14} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{29}; or R^{14} is a group of formula **(IC)** (as depicted in claim 1 ~~above~~);

R^{15} and R^{16} together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocyclyl; wherein said heterocyclyl may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{37};

n is 1;

R^{18}, R^{29} and R^{37} are independently selected from hydroxy and *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl; wherein R^{18}, R^{29} and R^{37} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{34}; and

R^{34} is carbamoyl.

Claim 9 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula **(I)** as claimed in claim 1 ~~(as depicted in claim 1)~~ wherein:

R^v is selected from hydrogen;

R^1 and R^2 are both butyl;

R^x and R^y are both hydrogen;

v is 0;

R^3 and R^6 are both hydrogen;

R^4 is methylthio; and

R^5 is selected from:

N-{(R)-α-[*N*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]benzyl} carbamoylmethoxy;

N-{(R)-α-[*N*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]-4-hydroxybenzyl}carbamoylmethoxy;

N-((R/S)-α-{*N*-[1-(R)-2-(S)-1-hydroxy-1-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)prop-2-yl]carbamoyl}-4-hydroxybenzyl)carbamoylmethoxy;

N-[(R)-α-(*N*-{2-(S)-[*N*-(carbamoylmethyl) carbamoyl]pyrrolidin-1-ylcarbonylmethyl}carbamoyl)benzyl]carbamoylmethoxy;

N-((R)-α-{*N*-[2-(3,4,5-trihydroxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamoyl}benzyl)carbamoylmethoxy; and

N-{(R)-α-[*N*-(2-(R)-3-(S)-4-(S)-5-(R)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydroxytetrahydropyran-2-ylmethyl)carbamoyl]benzyl}carbamoylmethoxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 10 (**currently amended**): A compound ~~of formula (I)~~ selected from:

1,1-Dioxo-3,3-dibutyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-(*N*-{(R)-α-[*N*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]benzyl}carbamoylmethoxy)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,2,5-benzothiadiazepine;

1,1-Dioxo-3,3-dibutyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-(*N*-{(R)-α-[*N*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]-4-hydroxybenzyl}carbamoylmethoxy)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,2,5-benzothiadiazepine;

1,1-Dioxo-3,3-dibutyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-[*N*-((R/S)-α-{*N*-[1-(R)-2-(S)-1-hydroxy-1-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)prop-2-yl]carbamoyl}-4-hydroxybenzyl)carbamoylmethoxy]-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,2,5-benzothiadiazepine;

1,1-Dioxo-3,3-dibutyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-{*N*-[(R)-α-(*N*-{2-(S)-[*N*-(carbamoylmethyl) carbamoyl]pyrrolidin-1-ylcarbonylmethyl}carbamoyl)benzyl]carbamoylmethoxy}-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,2,5-benzothiadiazepine;

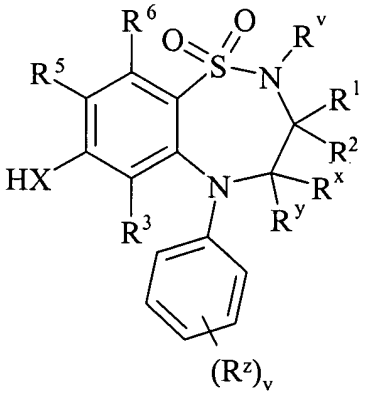
1,1-Dioxo-3,3-dibutyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-[*N*-((R)-α-{*N*-[2-(3,4,5-trihydroxyphenyl)ethyl]carbamoyl}benzyl)carbamoylmethoxy]-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,2,5-benzothiadiazepine; and

1,1-Dioxo-3,3-dibutyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-(*N*-{(R)-α-[*N*-(2-(R)-3-(S)-4-(S)-5-(R)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydroxytetrahydropyran-2-ylmethyl)carbamoyl]benzyl}carbamoylmethoxy)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,2,5-benzothiadiazepine;

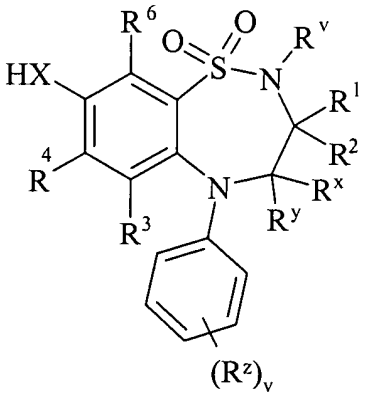
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 11 (**currently amended**): A process for preparing a compound of formula **(I)** as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1-10~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof which process comprises of:

Process 1): for compounds of formula **(I)** wherein X is -O-,-NR^a or -S-; reacting a compound of formula **(IIa)** or **(IIb)**:

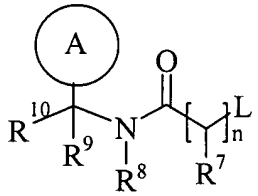


(IIa)



(IIb)

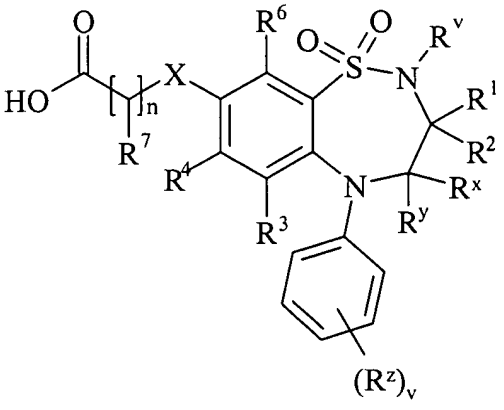
with a compound of formula **(III)**:



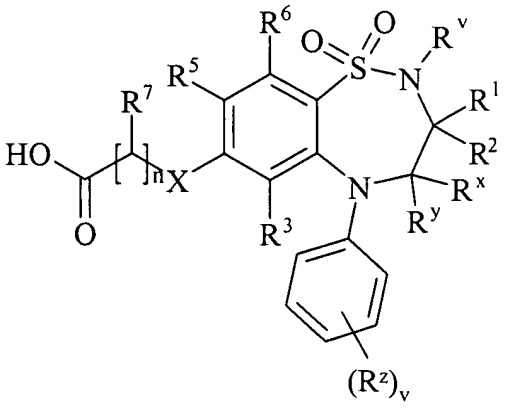
(III)

wherein L is a displaceable group;

Process 2): reacting an acid of formula **(IVa)** or **(IVb)**:

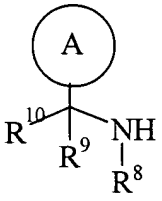


(IVa)



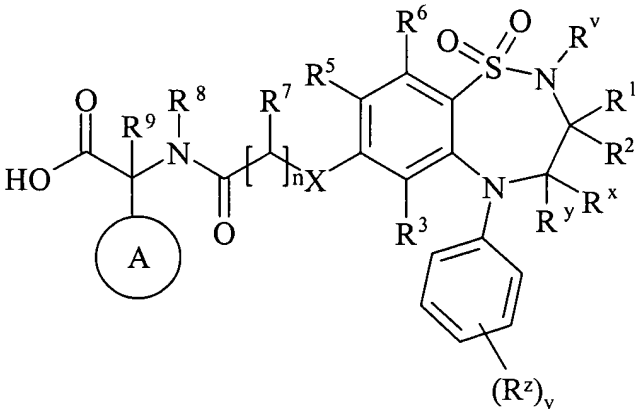
(IVb)

or an activated derivative thereof; with an amine of formula **(V)**:



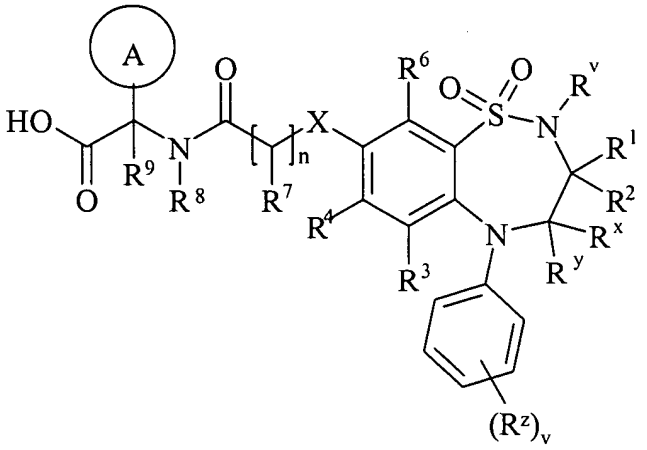
(V);

Process 3): for compounds of formula **(I)** wherein R^{10} is a group of formula **(IB)**; reacting a compound of formula **(VIa)**:



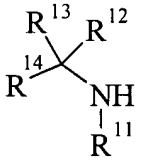
(VIa)

or **(VIb)**:



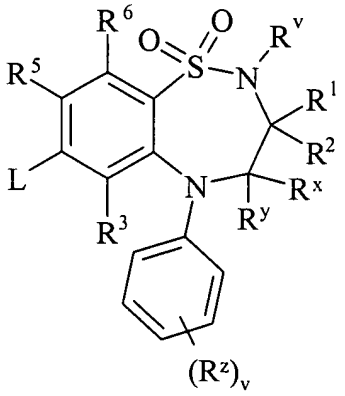
(VIb)

with an amine of formula **(VII)**:

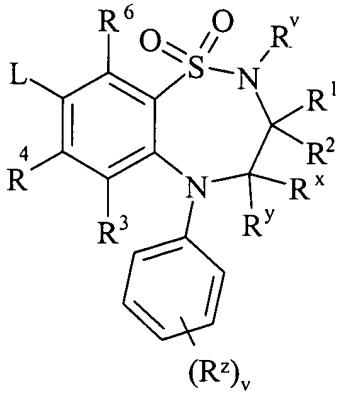


(VII)

Process 4) for compounds of formula **(I)** wherein one of R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from C_{1-6}alkylthio optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{17}; reacting a compound of formula **(VIIIa)** or **(VIIIb)**:



(VIIIa)



(VIIIb)

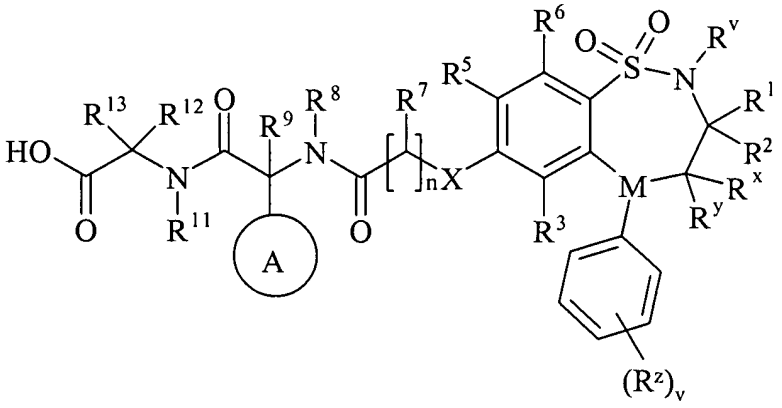
wherein L is a displaceable group; with a thiol of formula **(IX)**:

R^m-H

(IX)

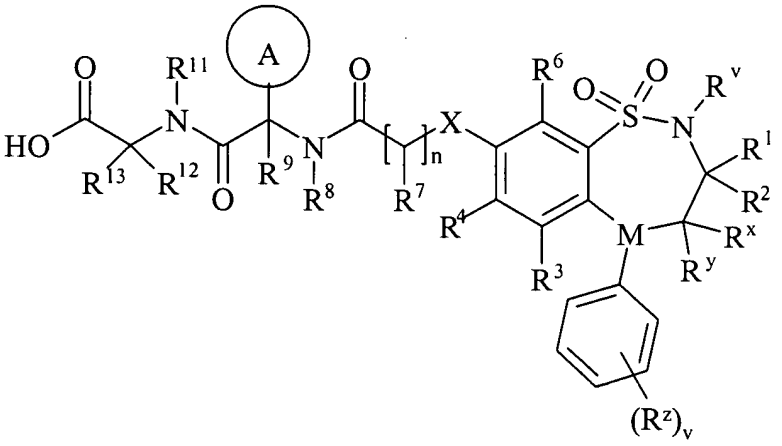
wherein R^m is C_{1-6}alkylthio optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{17}; or

Process 5): for compounds of formula **(I)** wherein R^{14} is a group of formula **(IC)**; reacting a compound of formula **(Xa)**:



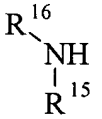
(Xa)

or **(Xb)**:



(Xb)

with an amine of formula **(XI)**:



(XI)

and thereafter optionally ~~if necessary or desirable~~:

i) converting a compound of the formula **(I)** into another compound of the formula **(I)**; and/or

ii) removing any protecting groups; and/or

iii) forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group of said compound~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~.

Claims 12-16 (**cancelled**).

Claim 17 (**currently amended**): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula **(I)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide formed on an available carboxy or hydroxy group~~, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug~~ thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claims 18-24 (**cancelled**).